

REMARKS

I. Status of the Application

Claims 8-19 are pending in this application. In the May 16, 2005 office action, the Examiner:

- A. Alleged that Sub-headings of the specification were missing and required correction;
- B. Allowed claims 16-19;
- C. Rejected claim 8, 9 and 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,631,602 by Kearney et al.; and
- D. Objected to claims 10-12 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In this response, Applicants have amended claims 8, 11 and 12 to place the case in a condition for allowance, and have canceled claim 10. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of claims 16-19. Applicants respectfully traverse the comments regarding the specification for the reasons set forth below. Applicants request favorable reconsideration of the application in light of foregoing amendments and following remarks.

II. Claim 8 is in a Condition for Allowance

The Examiner rejected claim 8 as allegedly being anticipated, but deemed claim 10 allowable if rewritten in independent format. (May 16, 2005 office action at pp.2,3) Claim 8

has been amended to incorporate all of the limitations of claim 10. Accordingly, claim 10 is in a condition for allowance.

III. Claims 9 and 11-15

Claims 9 and 11-15 all depend from or have been amended to depend from, claim 8. As discussed above claim 8 is in a condition for allowance. As a consequence, claims 9 and 11-15 are also in a condition for allowance.

IV. The Preliminary Amendment Added the Required Sub-Headings

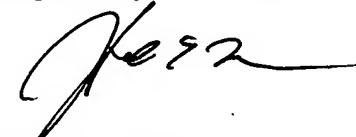
The Examiner commented that the sub-headings of the specification were missing and required correction. (May 16, 2005 office action at p.2). Applicant respectfully submits that the required sub-headings, as well as other corrections, were added in the Preliminary Amendment filed January 21, 2004. Applicants' attorney has confirmed through the PAIR system that the amendments to the specification contained within that Preliminary Amendment have been entered.

It appears that perhaps the Examiner did not consider these amendments. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the comments to the specification in light of the amendments to the specification made in the Preliminary Amendment. If there are additional comments or requirements, Applicants encourage the Examiner to contact Applicants' attorney by telephone conference to resolve any remaining issues.

V. Conclusion

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted the applicants have made a patentable contribution to the art. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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